



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Executive Registry

7-5983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of the U.S. Intelligence Board
SUBJECT : Proposed Communications Working Group

1. Technological advances in automated data processing and telecommunications have resulted in numerous proposals for sophisticated and expensive communications networks to link the members of the Intelligence Community. Some of these proposals have been presented to the Information Handling Committee of USIB, while some have been presented to other forums for consideration. All of the systems proposed are complex and require the expenditure of considerable resources. Also, they pose problems in terms of compatibility with existing communications procedures and facilities. The new techniques do show great promise for the future and, accordingly, must be carefully considered. However, the large number of proposals to exploit new types of lines and new modulation techniques are causing confusion and clearly could result in considerable duplication of effort.

2. At present there is no organization to deal adequately with the unique communications requirements of the Intelligence Community. While the Information Handling Committee concerns itself with the nature, substance and amount of information it is not staffed to deal with the technical or mechanical procedures for improving communications among Intelligence Community members. Consequently, I suggest that the USIB establish a working group of professional communicators, with representation from each USIB member, to determine the most efficient means of exchanging information. This seems necessary because of the technical complexity of the systems already proposed, the need for compatibility with existing facilities, and the necessity for eliminating or reducing the overlap and confusion caused by similar or related proposals. Such requirements appear to be of a continuing nature which suggests that the USIB needs a permanent Communications Committee.

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3. The initial task of the Communications Working Group would be to undertake a study of the existing and proposed networks in the Washington area serving the Intelligence Community to determine the most economical and efficient system possible. Concurrently, the Working Group should address the question of the need for a more permanent communications body for continuing support to the USIB. I am prepared to have the CIA Director of Communications, [redacted] convene such a group. Therefore, subject to your concurrence, each addressee is requested to identify an officer to represent him on this proposed Working Group.

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Lieutenant General, USMC
Deputy Director

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CONCUR: [redacted]

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John W. Coffey
Deputy Director
for Support

26 Nov 1971
Date